<u>**In the Claims**</u>

1-16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for using a contract object to coordinate relationships between multiple objects, comprising:

identifying selecting a ~~first object~~ file;

identifying selecting a ~~second object~~ collection;

determining a relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection;

~~using the~~ creating a contract object to represent the relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection, the contract object comprising a contract object identifier, a locator for the file, metadata for the file, and a locator for the collection;

storing within a transaction log a first entry and a second entry, the first entry representing creation of the contract object and the second entry representing a user request for the creation;

determining a first event that can occur to at least the file;

associating a first rule with the contract object, the first rule including [[a]] the first event ~~that can occur to the first object~~ and a first action;

receiving the first event occurring to the file;

accessing the first rule associated with the contract object; and

updating at least one of the contract object, the file, and the ~~second object~~ collection according to the first action responsive to the first event,

wherein the contract object is created and used without participation by a user, the ~~first object~~ file, or the ~~second object~~ collection.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein:

identifying a ~~first object~~ file includes identifying a plurality of ~~first objects~~ files;

determining a relationship includes determining a plurality of relationships between each of the ~~first objects~~ files and the ~~second object~~ collection; and

~~using~~ creating the contract object includes ~~using~~ creating a plurality of contract objects to represent the plurality of relationships between the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and the ~~second object~~ collection.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 18, wherein each contract object represents the relationship between exactly one of the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and the ~~second object~~ collection.

20.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein:

identifying a ~~first object~~ file includes identifying a plurality of ~~first objects~~ files;

identifying a ~~second object~~ collection includes identifying a plurality of ~~second objects~~ collections;

determining a relationship includes determining a plurality of relationships between the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and the plurality of ~~second objects~~ collections; and

~~using~~ creating the contract object includes ~~using~~ creating a plurality of contract objects to represent the plurality of relationships between the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and the plurality of ~~second objects~~ collections.

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 20, wherein each contract object represents the relationship between exactly one of the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and exactly one of the plurality of ~~second objects~~ collections.

22.   (Cancelled)

23.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim [[22]] 17, wherein:

~~storing a first~~ the locator for the file includes:

~~assigning~~ a first identifier assigned to the ~~first object~~ file; and

~~storing the first identifier in the contract object; and~~

~~storing a second~~ the locator for the collection includes:

~~assigning~~ a second identifier <u>assigned</u> to the <u>collection.</u> ~~second object; and~~
~~storing the second identifier in the contract object.~~

24.   (Cancelled)

25.   (Cancelled)

26.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, further comprising associating a second rule with the contract object, the second rule including a second event that can occur to the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u> and a second action.

27.   (Cancelled)

28.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, further comprising:
      storing a ~~third~~ <u>first</u> locator for the contract object in the ~~first object~~ <u>file;</u> and
      storing a ~~fourth~~ <u>second</u> locator for the contract object in the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u>.

29.-31. (Cancelled)

32.   (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim [[72]] <u>17</u>, further comprising using <u>at least one of</u> the <u>first and second</u> entries[[y]] to reconstruct the contract object after the contract object is lost.

33-43. (Cancelled)

44.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media containing a program to use a contract object to coordinate relationships between multiple objects, the program comprising:
      software to ~~identify~~ <u>select</u> a ~~first object~~ <u>file;</u>
      software to ~~identify~~ <u>select</u> a ~~second object~~ <u>collection;</u>

software to determine a relationship between the ~~first object~~ <u>file</u> and the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u>;

software to use the contract object to represent the relationship between the ~~first object~~ <u>file</u> and the ~~second object~~ <u>collection, the contract object comprising a contract object identifier, a locator for the file, metadata for the file, and a locator for the collection</u>;

<u>software to store within a transaction log a first entry and a second entry, the first entry representing creation of the contract object and the second entry representing a user request for the creation</u>;

<u>software to determine a first event that can occur to at least the file</u>;

software to associate a first rule with the contract object, the first rule including [[a]] <u>the</u> first event ~~that can occur to the first object~~ and a first action;

software to receive the first event <u>occurring to the file</u>;

software to access the first rule associated with the contract object; <u>and</u>

software to update at least one of the contract object<u>, the file,</u> and the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u> according to the first action responsive to the first event,

wherein the contract object is created and used without participation by a user, the ~~first object~~ <u>file</u>, or the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u>.

45.   (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein:

the software to identify a ~~first object~~ <u>file</u> includes software to identify a plurality of ~~first objects~~ <u>files</u>;

the software to identify a ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u> includes software to identify a plurality of ~~second objects~~ <u>collections</u>;

the software to determine a relationship includes software to determine a plurality of relationships between the plurality of ~~first objects~~ <u>files</u> and the plurality of ~~second objects~~ <u>collections</u>; and

the software to use the contract object includes software to a plurality of contract objects to represent the plurality of relationships between the plurality of ~~first objects~~ <u>files</u> and the plurality of ~~second objects~~ <u>collections</u>.

46. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 45, wherein each contract object represents the relationship between exactly one of the plurality of ~~first objects~~ files and exactly one of the plurality of ~~second objects~~ collections.

47.-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein:

the first event includes a rename event; and

the first action includes an update to [[a]] the metadata ~~item~~ for the ~~first object~~ file in the contract object.

55-59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 26, further comprising:

receiving the second event;

accessing the second rule associated with the contract object; and

updating at least one of the contract object, the file, and the ~~first object~~ collection according to the second action responsive to the second event.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 60, wherein accessing the second rule includes selecting the second rule from a plurality of rules based on receiving the second event occurring to the ~~second object~~ collection.

62. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein:

the first event includes a rename event; and

the first action includes an update of [[a]] the metadata ~~item~~ for the ~~first object~~ file in the contract object.

63-67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, further comprising software to associate a second rule with the contract object, the second rule including a second event that can occur to the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u> and a second action.

69. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 68, further comprising:

software to receive the second event;

software to access the second rule associated with the contract object; and

software to update at least one of the contract object<u>, the file,</u> and the ~~first object~~ <u>collection</u> according to the second action responsive to the second event.

70. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 69, wherein the software to access the second rule includes software to select the second rule from a plurality of rules based on receiving the second event occurring to the ~~second object~~ <u>collection</u>.

71. (Cancelled)

72. (Cancelled)

73. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 72, further comprising removing the entry from the transaction log after the contract object is created.

74. (Cancelled)

75. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 74, further comprising software to remove the entry from the transaction log after the contract object is created.

76. (Cancelled)

77. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method according to claim 17, wherein determining a relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection includes determining the relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection, the relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection having been established without the participation of the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection.

78. (Currently Amended) Computer-readable media according to claim 44, wherein the software to determine includes software to determine the relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection, the relationship between the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection having been established without the participation of the ~~first object~~ file and the ~~second object~~ collection.